Dewan's reply.—You have referred to the portion of my address in which I said that, if the guardians of the students made representations, those representations could certainly be considered in regard to the grievances they had in the matter of the enhancement of school fees. I take it that you are one such, and I may tell you that the representations that you have now made will be very carefully considered by Government. That is my reply to your representation, so far as the enhancement of school fees is concerned.

In the course of your speech you have made certain remarks contesting the correctness of the Press Communiquê of September 1921. Without a careful study of the papers, you cannot expect me to reply to those remarks. I must, therefore, reserve my reply for a future occasion.

In regard to the unfortunate students' strikes and your remarks about them, I have already made a statement to the members of the Assembly and I do not propose to say anything more about them now.

Mr. Hodgson wishes me to say that the suggestions to levy a small fee in classes III and IV of the Primary Schools did not actually emanate from him, and that it was not his desire that such fee should be levied. He says that he only led the discussion of the question of levying the fee and brought it up before the members of the Conference for their consideration.

All that you have said about the Education Committees' reports will receive my careful consideration.

120. Education of Malayala Brahmins.

Mr. Trivikramar Vasudevar (Member, Jenmi, Padmanabhapuram Division) said that there was a wrong notion among the general public that the Malayala Brahmins formed a well-to-do community. The Education Expenditure Committee also seemed to have shared that misunderstanding as was evidenced by their report. Had there been a member of the Malayala Brahmin community also on the committee, he would have given a correct idea of the economically backward condition of the community and thus cleared the misunderstanding. He requested that, in all committees and conferences dealing with the education of Malayala Brahmins, one from that community might be nominated as a Member. One other misconception prevalent among the public was that Government were incurring additional expenditure for the education of the Malayala Brahmins by conducting a special school for them at Mannadi. As a matter of fact no expenditure relating to that school had so far been met from the State funds. The amounts spent for the special school came from the endowments made for the school by private persons. The only noteworthy feature about it was that the proceeds of the endowments were not properly realised and consequently the money actually spent on the school was not adequate for the purpose. The Member pointed out that there were several trust funds and properties belonging to his community which had been set apart for their benefit, especially in matters educational, and that some of them were either taken over by Government or were in the hands of other people. He requested that a Committee or a Government officer might be immediately appointed to enquire into the existence and nature of such funds and properties and promised the necessary assistance from the community in the enquiry. He also suggested the desirability of framing a law for the protection of these charity funds and added that the Cochin Government was taking some definite action in the matter.

Lastly, the Member prayed that adequate encouragement might be given to the few members of his community who were qualified for public service and also for the few others who were already in the service.

Dewan's reply.—I am sorry that I did not understand your view-point last year. I now understand you to say that there are sufficient funds which originally belonged to your community for the education of the pupils thereof and which you

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now wish to see appropriated to their legitimate purpose and that you want the help of Government to find out what those funds are. If there are such funds, I do not understand what your difficulty is in having a list of them prepared by your community. If you want any Government help for the preparation of such a list, they will be glad to give you the help. If there are funds which can be used legitimately for the purpose referred to, Government will be very glad to apply them for the benefit of the community. I am aware of the fact that the Cochin Government are contemplating legislation for diverting the funds at the disposal of the community for the education of its youth, but there are such funds in Cochin, while there are no such funds here to my knowledge. I am prepared to take up the question with you if you can point out the funds.

In regard to employment, I have said over and over again that the promotion of people already in the service depends upon their work and seniority, irrespective of the community to which they belong. In regard to the members of your community who are qualified, their claims will be considered along with those of the members of other communities.

In regard to the remarks in the report of the Education Expenditure Committee about special schools for your community, we have not discussed or dealt with that question in the G. O. already issued.

121. Need for concessions to the Visvakarma community in the matter of education.

Mr. A. Muthu Jyotsiar (Member, Nominated) first spoke of the backward condition of the Viswakarma community in the matter of education. He pointed out that the members of his community generally neglected the education of their children and that they took to their ancestral industry. The result was that they had become deplorably backward in education and present-day civilisation. Their only avocation was handicrafts work and so they could not compete with modern industry worked by machinery. On account of this disability they found it difficult to eke out their daily livelihood. He, therefore, urged the necessity of impressing on the minds of the members of his community the importance of education in the matter of promoting the welfare and prosperity of the nation as also the necessity of introducing modern industries gradually. With a view to achieve the above objects, he suggested the following measures:—

(1) Full-fee concession should be granted to the boys of his community reading in vernacular schools, in case the School Leaving Certificate was to be prescribed as the minimum qualification for admission into industrial schools.

(2) Students from his community studying in High Schools and Colleges should be granted concessions similar to those allowed to Malayala Brahmins, Mahomedans and other communities.

(3) A few bright and intelligent students from his community should be selected for higher education and granted scholarships until they became graduates in arts and law and this concession should be continued until a sufficient number of graduates became available in the community.

(4) Night-schools should be opened in their villages for the education of poor students, or, in the alternative, the education of students up to the age of 12 should be made compulsory.

In conclusion, the Member requested that their children might be exempted from the rule which lays down that those seeking admission into Industrial schools should hold School Leaving Certificates.

Dewan's reply.—The most important point to be considered in deciding on the help to be rendered to a community in the matter of education is the percentage of literacy in that community. On a comparison of the literates among the various communities, it is found that your community comes very near Christians and stands above Chaliars. You cannot, therefore, be classed as a backward community

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